

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Year 2003  
Baseball  
Rules

CINCINNATI RECREATION COMMISSION

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## INJURY PREVENTION

All participants must be aware that some risks are involved when actively participating in physical programs. If you are handicapped or not positive you are physically fit to participate in an active sport, please consult your physician.

All Cincinnati Recreation Commission's programs and facilities are open to all citizens regardless of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or disability.

## UMPIRES

The Cincinnati Umpires Association (**Tim Cann: 859-689-5628; cell phone 859-802-8224**) will be assigning umpires for the current Baseball season. **Each team is responsible for payment of the umpire fees prior to the start of each game.** Games should not be started unless all fees are paid. Please bring this rule book to all games. If there is a question about umpire's rates, this rate information should be shared. The fees per umpire are as follows:

Seven Innings	\$45 / Team
Seven Innings (DH)	\$90 / Team
Nine Innings	\$55 / Team
Seven Innings (1 umpire)	\$35 / Team
Nine Innings (1 umpire)	\$40 / Team

A forfeit fee made payable to Cincinnati Recreation Commission is also required to cover two forfeits (\$180). If a team has one or less forfeits at the end of the season, the appropriate amount of money will be returned. The forfeit fee may be applied to several leagues if the team has entered into more than one CRC league. Games will not be played if a team has not paid/repaid the forfeit fee.

There must be at least 48 hours notice given to **Tim Cann (859-689-5628; cell phone 859-802-8224)** if a team cancels a game, or a forfeit fee will be charged. In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is responsible for paying umpire fees for each game forfeited. **For example:** If a team forfeits one game, it must pay BOTH umpires \$45 for a total of \$90. For a doubleheader, the forfeiting team must pay \$90 for each umpire for a total of \$180. **If the forfeit fee is used, the \$180 deposit must be replenished before another game is played.**

**NOTE:** Each team must contact CRC at the end of the season (October) to initiate the processing on the forfeit fee deposit. Allow several weeks for the refund check after the fall season.

### A: Umpire Expectations and Duties

1. Possess a working knowledge of Cincinnati Recreation baseball rules as contained in this rule book.
2. Possess a knowledge of the current American League baseball rules.

3. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each game.
4. Perform a pre-game check to include, but not limited to:
  - a) **Team uniforms meet CRC standards. \*Strictly Enforced.**
  - b) Acceptance of two (2) game balls per team to start the game.
  - c) **Home team designated on schedule.**
  - d) Inspect all equipment for safety and legality.
  - e) The safety of the field and determine its acceptable playing condition.
  - f) Review of ground rules with both managers.
5. Control the tempo of the game; maintain a safe atmosphere for all participants.
6. Notify CRC, in writing, within two (2) days, of players ejected with an explanation as to why they were ejected.
7. If a game is protested because of a rule and found to be valid, the game umpires will be required to umpire that game from the point of the protest with no additional fees charged to the teams.
8. Call a fair and unbiased game.

## **2003 BASEBALL RULES**

### **SECTION 1:**

The league will operate under American League Baseball rules and amateur rules of the NABF with the following exceptions:

#### **A: THE ADDITIONAL HITTER** Modification Rule :001

Teams will have the option to include the additional hitter (AH) to bat anywhere in their lineup. The player designated as the AH is locked into the batting order and may only appear in that spot. The AH may make one entry into the game in any role and the replaced player becomes the AH. A team must start and end a game with the AH if it chooses to use it in a game. If a team begins the game with the AH and falls below the ten man roster, an automatic out is recorded for that position in the batting order. If using the designated hitter (DH), the pitcher may be used as the AH, and therefore may remain the AH if removed as the pitcher during the game. If using the DH, and the AH enters the game as a relief pitcher, this would constitute one entry into the game, making the AH the pitcher and the DH the AH, thus terminating the DH for the remainder of the game per the DESIGNATED HITTER RULE.

#### **B: THE DESIGNATED HITTER RULE** As printed by the American League

\*A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game.

\*A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included on the lineup cards presented to the Umpire in Chief.

\*The Designated Hitter named in the starting lineup must come to bat at least one time, unless the opposing club changes pitchers.

\*It is not mandatory that a club designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a Designated Hitter for that game.

\*Pinch hitters for a Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter becomes the Designated Hitter. A replaced Designated Hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.

\*The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager then must designate their spots in the batting order.

\*A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter and the runner assumes the role of Designated Hitter. A Designated Hitter may not pinch run.

\*A Designated Hitter is "locked" into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.

\*Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

\*Once a pinch hitter bats for any player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

\*Once the game pitcher bats for the Designated Hitter this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. (The game pitcher may only pinch-hit for the Designated Hitter).

\*Once a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. A substitute for the Designated Hitter need not be announced until it is the Designated Hitter's turn to bat.

## **C:     SUSPENSIONS AND EJECTIONS**

Modification Rule :002-:005

:002     A manager or player-manager (one designee per team) has the right to unlimited ejection's, provided there is no intent to bodily harm or contact with umpires or opponents.

:003     A coach who does not appear as a roster player has the same rights as per rule :002.

:004     Players are allowed one reported ejection without suspension. Two reported ejections will result in a one game suspension (first game of a double header). Three reported ejection's will result in review and suspension/ejection from the league. Unreported player ejection's carry no penalties.

:005     Umpire or league official contact.

- a) Touching an umpire or league official with intent to harm or demoralize will result in a minimum of one year suspension and maximum of life suspension from the CRC Baseball League and tournaments, as well as any other recreation program offered by the CRC.
- b) Any other type of contact or verbal attack, will be reviewed by the Executive Committee to determine if a suspension is in order, for the best interest of Baseball and the League.

**D: BASEBALLS**

Modification Rule :006

During the Cincinnati Men's League, balls made by the following companies are permitted for play:

Worth - MLR

Rawlings R100

Diamond - D- 1

Wilson - 1001

If you fail to use approved baseballs, a \$25 fee could be assessed and taken from your forfeit fee. The opposing umpire should be notified, he will notify the league office for action. Two balls must be provided for each game.

**E: EQUIPMENT**

Modification Rule :007

- a) All players are required to wear a head protector with two earflaps while batting and while on base.
- b) Metal spikes are permitted as well as baseball style rubber cleats.

**F: PROTESTS**

Modification Rule :008

All protests, including eligibility, must be submitted in writing, accompanied by a \$50 cash protest fee, and submitted to the Baseball Coordinator at the CRC office. If the protest is allowed, the \$50 fee will be refunded. If the protest is disallowed, the money will be retained in the league treasury. Protest must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. of the next working day after the disputed game. Notify the opposing team's manager and umpires immediately, before the next pitch that the game is being protested. Any materials used in the protest must be in by the 4:00 p.m. deadline or it can not be used as evidence.

**G: COMPLETED GAMES**

Modification Rule :009



"Completed" games will follow American League rules as to definition of a regulation game. Tie games will be played to completion at the end of the season if it effects the final league standings.

## **SECTION 2: MISCELLANEOUS DEFINITIONS AND RULES**

**A:     Qualification**  
MAJOR DIVISION  
UNLIMITED AGE

COLLEGE DIVISION - 22 & UNDER  
(cannot be 23 before August 1 of current year)

**B:     Forfeit Rule**

All teams must start the games at the scheduled time. Be on time and ready to go at game time. There is NO grace period at any time unless agreed upon by manager of opposing team (up to 15 minutes).

The umpires watch is the official time piece.

If a team forfeits the first game of a double header, the team has 20 minutes to field a team for the second game. If, after 20 minutes, the team cannot field a team, the second game is also a forfeit.

If forfeit fee is used to pay the umpires, the amount must be replenished before the next game. All decision for forfeits and fines are final.

**C:     Scores**

**Each winning team manager is to call in game scores to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission SCORE-LINE at 352-1620, Ron Rieger at 231-7655 or Bob Cain at 737-8041.** Leave the scores on the answering machine. Calls can be made to Ron or Bob: Weekday games until 10:00 p.m.;       Saturday and Sunday games until 9:00 p.m.

As long as winning team managers call in their scores as noted above, Ron will be calling scores into the paper.

**D:     Field for Warm-Up**

Field usage for batting and fielding warm-ups during pre-game practice sessions:

Home team: 30 minutes before game time  
(15 minute limit)

Visiting team: 15 minutes before game time

(15 minute limit)

Please move on and off the field as requested. Get the game started on time.

**\*E: Uniforms**

During the summer season, all teams must wear matching uniforms--cap, outer jersey, pants, socks, belt. Shoes must be baseball style cleats, turf shoes, or metal spikes. No other shoe is permitted. Penalty--player will not be able to play. **\*This rule will be strictly enforced!**

**F: Bases**

All teams are required to bring bases to each game. The home team is responsible for marking the distance and securing bases and pitcher's plate on fields where not permanently installed.

**G: Practice Fields**

Limited practice fields are available throughout the City of Cincinnati. Three hour segments of time are available beginning in April. Cost is \$12 and up per three hour time segment at most fields. (352-4020 CRC Athletic Division Office) Fields may be reserved over the phone with a credit card payment. There are many fields available for make-up or pick-up games on Saturdays after 3:00 p.m. Hille and Roselawn are not available for practices.

**J: CRC Tournament Authority**

During NABF and other sanctioned and non-sanctioned tournaments, the CRC has full authority over all matters in their region.

**K: Appeal Process**

There will be one appeal allowed for all decisions made by the League Coordinator or his designee. A maximum of 10 working days is time allotted for the manager only, to appeal a decision.

**L: Player Limitations (NCAA)**

Maximum of four players from the same Division I college baseball team can participate on the same summer team. Players from Division II and III are unrestricted per NCAA Rules, unless they are coached by their college coach.

**M: Continued participation due to injury, bleeding or open wound**

A player/substitute, manager, coach, trainer or other team member or Official who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until the bleeding is stopped and/or the wound is covered.

1. If treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is the umpire's judgement.
2. If excessive time is involved, the re-entry rule would apply to players as it applies to injuries.
3. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniforms or if a bandage becomes blood soaked, in the judgement of the umpire, the uniform/bandage must be changed before the individual may participate.

**N: Time Between Double Headers**

1. Time allotted between double headers is 30 minutes. Do not leave the area. Be ready to play.
2. In some instances, the two managers may mutually agree to play one, nine inning game instead of a double header. This may only be done with non-league games.

**O: Playing Conditions in Case of Rain**

For playing conditions in case of rain, call rain out number printed on the back of your schedule. If a game is cancelled due to playing conditions, team managers must coordinate the make up game themselves. Contact Tom Nerl, the Baseball Coordinator for field availability at Hille and Roselawn. All other CRC fields are coordinated through the Athletic Division offices.

**P: Dugouts (Roselawn, Hille)**

Dugouts are for team members and a score keeper only. No children or non-roster individuals are permitted on the playing field.

During games, all equipment and players are to be within the dugout--except for the "on deck" batter. Sitting or standing outside this area is not permitted.

**Q: Language and Behavior**

It is the intent of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to provide baseball games for public enjoyment. To accomplish this, profane language, explosive behavior, and the throwing of bats and other articles is not permitted. After a team warning for this offense, the next offending player may be ejected.

**R: Baseball Managers/Teams Expectations**

1. Alcohol and beer are not permitted at any CRC facility. Umpires are expected to forfeit a game should a team disregard this notice. Do not bring illegal beverages or substances to the game.

2. Managers are to meet deadlines / get paperwork in on time.
3. Attend meetings to receive information, participate in discussions, provide input for decisions for the betterment of the league.
4. Be in control of the team. If a player or spectator disrupts the game in any way, or damages city property, the manager will be held accountable.
5. The manager is the primary communication link between his team and the CRC league coordinator. It is the manager's responsibility to take the initiative to clarify information about the operation of the league. In addition the manager must:
  - a) Read the CRC baseball rule book prior to his first scheduled game.
  - b) Ascertain the eligibility of each player on the roster.
  - c) Obtain league information (deadlines, tournaments, etc.).
  - d) Submit league paperwork accurately and on time.
  - e) Retain a copy of the team roster.
  - f) Bring a copy of the league rules and schedule to every game.
  - g) Inform the league coordinator of changes in his address and telephone number.
6. Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
7. Follow established guidelines for the team dress code for uniforms.
8. Exhibit baseball sense:
  - a) No soft toss or hitting of any kind into fencing.
  - b) Clean litter from around players benches and bleachers.
  - c) At Roselawn and Hille:
    - don't toss in front of dugouts.
    - toss in the outfield.
    - hand work the bullpens, pitcher's mound and home plate.
    - clean debris in dugouts after your game.

**S: Run Rule**

A game shall be terminated when a team is leading by ten (10) runs after a minimum of five innings (4<sup>th</sup> innings for the home team). This is to be agreed upon by both team managers. The umpire must stay to call the game if it is decided to continue.

**T: Time of Game, Limitation**

Weekday Games: No new inning may be started after 2 1/2 hours. The umpire has the official game time.

Weekend Games: No time limit.

#### **U. Home and Away Status**

Home team is listed on the schedule. In cases of double headers, the first game is the status listed on the schedule. The second game, home/away status is reversed. (No longer decided by a coin toss.)

#### **V. Evaluation of Umpires**

Managers, Please take the time to evaluate each umpire assigned your games. C.R.C. and the Umpire Association are very interested in improving the quality of service provided. Let us know the good as well as the bad.

### **SECTION 3: Registration**

#### **A: Summer Season**

Weeknight; May 14 - July 18 □ 9-10 weeks - off July 4 (Friday)  
Sunday; May 10 - July 20 □ 10 weeks - off May 25

AABC State Tournament; July 21 - July 27  
AABC Regional Tournament; July 31 - August 3  
NABF Regional Tournament; August 5 - August 10

Number of teams per league (depends upon field availability):  
Weeknights – 12-16 per league; single 7 inning games  
Sunday - 14; double headers

**All teams must turn in a roster by June 1, 2003.**

**League roster - 24 players**  
**NABF roster - 21 players**

A team may **add** or release players up to **June 28, 2003**. Any team that has not turned in the roster by this date, faces forfeits for games played after **June 28, 2003**. **\*Manager must sign to add/release all players.**

**All rosters may be completed on the form provided by CRC, or the form may be obtained by e-mail as a Microsoft Word attachment, completed and returned to CRC via e-mail for printing.**

#### **B: Priority Registration for the Summer Season Only**

1. Teams which played in a CRC league have priority registration for that league each year. All new teams register at the designated date. Each day of the week is considered a league.

2. Priority registration is determined year to year by the manager of the team - regardless of the sponsor or players! The manager is the key in all of our programs.

Considerations for a team being a priority team are as follows:

- a) If the team splits and several players form a new team, the original manager has priority as the old team; the players who formed the second team become a new team.
- b) If a team splits and several players and the sponsor form a team, that team is a new team; the original manager has priority as the old team.
- c) If the manager leaves the sport, the alternate will assume the position of the old team and have priority in registration.
- d) If the old manager leaves the sport and there is no alternate or the alternate also quits, the first person who registers the team name becomes the manager of the old team and will have priority in registration. Any and all other players will enter teams as new teams.

**C: Fall Season**

Sunday, single 7 inning games  
September 7 to November 2: 8 weeks  
Open roster  
No make up games  
Registration ends August 23, 2003

**D: Fees**

Summer	
Sunday	\$700
Weeknight	\$290/night
Fall	\$290

**E: Refunds**

No entry fee will be refunded after the registration deadline unless the league coordinator is unable to place your team. Teams withdrawing prior to the stated registration deadline will be assessed a \$25.00 service charge for clerical and material fees.

**SECTION 4: Reinstating Players to Amateur Status**

Players who have signed a professional (major or minor league) contract must be officially reinstated to amateur status with NABF. Failure to do so will make said player ineligible for tournament play. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure that all players are reinstated. Forms can be obtained through this office. Upon application, a copy must be filed with the CRC office. The charges for reinstating a player are \$20.00. These fees will be paid by each team or the player to NABF.

Deadline: June 12, 2003, made payable to:

NABF, Executive Director  
Post Office Box #705  
Bowie, Maryland 20715-0705

## **SECTION 5: Tournament Information**

### **A. NABF Tie Breakers Determined By:**

1. Best division record (% basis).
2. Head to head competition.
3. Least runs scored in the division.
4. Most runs scored in the division.
5. Coin flip.

### **B. NABF Regional Tournament Requirements**

1. Each team is required to have team insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 Liability showing the NABF as one of the insured. Insurance Certificates must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the pre-tournament coaches meeting. (Rule 6.08)
2. Proof of age is required at each tournament site under Rule 6.06. Have your players locate their birth certificates now!!! (Hospital Certificates are not permitted as proof of age. Drivers License with picture is permitted.)
3. Tournament Packet Information will be mailed in July to your organization. Packets include Rule Book, Tournament Information, Contacts, Special Instructions and three Official Tournament Team Roster Forms to be presented at the assigned tournament site and given to the respective Tournament Committee (Rules 6.03, 4.04)
4. Team must provide a team picture at the registration meeting.
5. All players having professional experience and not previously reinstated to Amateur status must be reinstated prior to July 20th of the current year. (See Rules 5.01 through 5.10)
6. Team uniform shirts must display NABF logo patch on sleeve.

## **SECTION 6: Recent NABF Rule Changes**

The National Amateur Baseball Federation adopted the following rule changes for the 2002 season:

**Rule 0.05 (added under 0.00) PLAYING RULES**

The playing rules of the National Association of Professional Leagues (OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES) shall be the official rules of this Federation and Tournament play, except when they may conflict with Federation rules. The interpretation of playing rules shall be that as defined by the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs (OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES).

**NABF Constitution & By-Laws Article II, Section 2B**

All franchise holders must pay a tournament fee of two hundred fifty (\$250.00) for each tournament in which they intend to participate. NOTE: The late fee changes to \$275.00.

**Rule 9.05A METAL BATS**

All magnesium and aluminum bats and other metallic substance bats shall be Minus 3 rating to conform to weight and size standards as prescribed in the Playing Rules as defined in rule 0.05. It shall be acceptable in the Sophomore Division and above of NABF tournament play.

**Rule 9.04A COMPLETE UNIFORMS**

All players and coaches must be in complete and matching uniforms to participate in any NABF regional or World Series game in accordance with Major League Baseball Rule 1.11(A)(1).

**Rule 5.06 LIMIT OF REINSTATED PLAYERS**

No team competing in the NABF tournaments shall be allowed more than five (5) reinstated players with professional experience above Class A Baseball on its roster, except under the following conditions: A player from professional baseball for five (5) or more consecutive years and reinstated as an amateur player by the NABF, will not fall within the provisions of this rule.

Note: Rule 5.06 permits all former Class A or less ex-professional players who provide an unconditional release, and are reinstated by the NABF to amateur status, the opportunity to participate in NABF regional or world series events without numerical restriction.

**It would be in the best interest of every manager to have a copy of these rules at all CRC baseball games.**